

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

2 DECEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. Venezuela

a. Over 3,500,000 Venezuelans (some 96 percent of the electorate) went to the polls yesterday. An overwhelming turnout.

b. The process was marred, but not disrupted, by terrorist activity.

c. Returns are still too fragmentary (about 5 percent of the vote counted so far) even to show trends.

d. The press is currently making much of the early 2 to 1 lead established in Caracas by dark horse independent Uslar over Betancourt's nominee Leoni.

e. This probably does not mean much. In 1959, Betancourt lost the capital but won over-all 5 to 1.

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2. Egypt - Saudi Arabia - Yemen

a. As matters now stand, a resumption of UAR-Saudi hostilities over Yemen seems a virtual certainty with the coming of the new year.

(Cont'd)

b. Nasir has done nothing to fulfill his promise to reduce Egyptian troop strength in Yemen by that time. It remains around 32,000.

c. We doubt that any plans he may now have would extend beyond making some last-minute token removals and fudging his figures, as he has done before.

d. He has also thus far stymied efforts for a political solution being made by the Yemenis themselves. They want to broaden the political base of the government to include important tribal and religious elements (not necessarily royalist) now opposed to Sallal.

e. While this solution still holds promise, it probably cannot, under the circumstances, be brought about soon enough to avert further clashes.

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3. Syria

a. No one gives the Baathist regime in Syria much of a chance.

b. Apparently this goes for Baathist Premier Hafiz himself. He has moved to neutralize the national guard, the party's paramilitary arm, and is casting about for support in non-Baathist circles and the army.

c. Though this has put the fat in the fire, Hafiz probably felt the move against the guard was his only chance. [REDACTED]

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50X1

d. It is sort of a smudged carbon copy of recent Iraqi events.

e. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] a group of disgruntled conservative army officers, very actively plotting their own coup. [REDACTED]

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g. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] there is a group of pro-Nasir, anti-Baathist "unionists" [REDACTED] ready to take over in the confusion.

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4. South Vietnam

a. Plans to shuffle the corps commanders have been called off.

b. We are not entirely sure why, and suspect there may be something to reports that the change in plans was the work of Security Minister Dinh.

c. There has also been public clamor against General Tri, I Corps commander, who has a reputation of being anti-Buddhist and is genuinely unpopular.

d. The press is saying his reassignment was in response to popular pressure. This is probably partly true but the allegation has, at the same time, made it difficult to reassign him and much infighting has developed.

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NOTES

- A. Cuba [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED]
- B. USSR [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1
- C. Turkey Prime Minister Inonu hinted in a speech last night he may resign soon. He is meeting today with leaders of the two parties that pulled out of his coalition.
- D. Senegal Senegalese presidential and legislative elections took place yesterday amid considerable rioting (at least ten killed). Renowned poet and francophile, President Senghor, was returned to the job. He was the only candidate for it.
- E. Congo Congolese Foreign Minister Kalinda-Mabika has been arrested before he had a chance to resign. He is being held responsible for allowing a passport (since revoked) to be issued recently to Tshombé. The government may have good reason to suspect this was no mere bureaucratic oversight. [REDACTED]

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